

Thank you, Dan. And, thank you to all of the members of NASA's UAP Independent Study Team. Your selfless dedication to the pursuit of understanding the nature behind one of our planet's greatest mysteries to date is commendable. And, I want to thank you, the audience, for tuning in today to watch our first deliberative meeting of NASA's independent study team on evaluating and categorizing unidentified anomalous phenomena.

Before I begin, I want to echo Dan's words that it is disheartening to hear of the harassment our panelists have faced online all because they are studying this topic. NASA stands behind our panelists and we do not tolerate abuse. Harassment only leads to further stigmatization of the UAP field, significantly hindering the scientific progress and discouraging others to study this important subject matter. Your harassment also obstructs the public's right to knowledge. Our panelists are leading experts in the scientific, aeronautics, and data analytics communities. We are very lucky to have them onboard to share their invaluable insights to inform NASA on what possible data could be collected in the future, and how it can be collected, to help us better explain the nature of UAP.

The UAP Independent Study Team was commissioned to create a roadmap for NASA on how to use the tools of science to evaluate and categorize the nature of UAPs going forwards. This roadmap would help NASA and the federal government obtain usable data to explain the nature of future UAPs.

Transparency, openness and scientific integrity are pinnacle to NASA's mission. They are at the forefront of this public meeting and have been throughout the team's seven months on the study. This is a working meeting, so the public will have the incredible opportunity to witness the process of science in action.

At NASA, we lead the world in exploration and are committed to rigorous scientific inquiry. The nature of science is to better understand the unknown, and to do that, our scientists need data.

Right now, there is a very limited number of high-quality observations and data curation of UAP. The existing data available from eyewitness reports are often muddled and cannot provide conclusive evidence that supports UAP recognition and analysis. Additionally, an object's background can complicate the data further and render it unusable due to conventional objects that can mimic or overshadow the phenomena completely such as commercial aircraft, military equipment, the weather and ionospheric phenomena like auroras. This lack of high-quality data make it impossible to draw scientific conclusions on the nature of UAP.

The team used unclassified data from civilian government entities, commercial data and data from other sources to inform their recommendations that will be published in a public report this summer. I want to emphasize that there is a great benefit to studying unclassified data rather than classified data for this study.

First, unidentified anomalous phenomena sightings themselves are not classified. It's the sensor platform that is classified. Think of it this way, if a fighter jet took a picture of the Statue of Liberty, then that image would be classified because of the sensors on the plane, not because of the subject in the picture.

Second, unclassified data make it possible for our team to communicate openly to advance our understanding of UAP not only with each other, but across the scientific community and to the public. This ensures a clear and transparent pipeline of information that can be built upon through the generations to expand our understanding.

This study relies on open data. Everything we use at NASA is open, and anyone can look at these records. I invite you to visit our Open Data Portal at [data.nasa.gov](https://data.nasa.gov) to comb through our tens of thousands of data sets that are free and fully accessible to the public. Additionally, please check out [data.gov/open/data](https://data.gov/open/data) for a great overview of where you can find the archives for our science and mission data sites.

I am looking forward to hearing the deliberations put forth today from our distinguished panel of experts.